

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 0263

E.(-. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL MILI RO

SUBJ: MILITARY EXCHANGES WITH ROMANIA: NEXT STEPS

REF: BUCHAREST 5014

1. AMBASSADOR MET WITH GENERAL-COLONEL ION COMAN, CHIEF OF THE GENERAL STAFF, ON JAN 6, 1976. AMONG OTHER TOPICS DISCUSSED, AMBASSADOR REVIEWED RECORD OF EXCHANGES BETWEEN US-ROMANIAN ARMED FORCES AND THEIR VALUE TO OUR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP. SOME SUGGESTIONS WERE MADE FOR POSSIBLE FUTURE MILITARY EXCHANGES DURING 1976.

2. GENERAL COMAN ADVISED THAT THE ROMANIAN TRAINING SHIP, MIRCEA, WILL DEFINITELY PARTICIPATE IN OPSAIL 76 AND THE INTERNATIONAL NAVAL REVIEW IN NEW YORK IN JULY AND HOPES TO BE ABLE TO VISIT SIX OTHER U.S. PORTS DURING THIS VISIT.

VICE ADMIRAL GHEORGHE SANDU, SENIOR NAVAL REPRESENTATIVE

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ON THE GENERAL STAFF AND HIGHEST RANKING ROMANIAN NAVAL

OFFICER, ALTHOUGH NOT ACCOMPANYING THE MIRCEA, WILL BE ROMANIAN MOD REPRESENTATIVE AT THESE CEREMONIES.

3. GENERAL COMAN AGREED THAT A U.S. SHIP VISIT TO ROMANIA IN 1976 WOULD BE A GOOD CONTINUATION OF THE PROGRAM INITIATED BY THE WAINWRIGHT VISIT. AMBASSADOR SAID HE THOUGHT IT OUGHT TO FOLLOW MIRCEA VISIT.

4. GENERAL COMAN AGREED THAT EXCHANGE VISITS OF RESPECTIVE CHIEFS OF STAFF OF THE AIR FORCE WOULD BE IN ORDER FOR 1976. (IN THIS REGARD, DAO RECEIVED A MESSAGE FROM CINCUSAFE ON JAN. 12, 1976 REQUESTING RECOMMENDATION FOR POSSIBLE INVITATION BY CHIEF OF STAFF, USAF, TO CHIEF OF STAFF, ROMAF, FOR A TEN-DAY VISIT IN FY77 UNDER VIP TOUR PROGRAM. THIS TIMELY OPPORTUNITY FITS IN WITH WHAT WE HAD ENVISIONED HERE.)

5. GENERAL COMAN ALSO AGREED THAT POLITICAL SITUATION AND UPCOMING U.S. ELECTION YEAR PRECLUDE EXCHANGE OF VISITS BETWEEN U.S. SECDEF AND ROMANIAN MOD DURING 1976.

6. COMMENT: A. THE MIRCEA VISIT IS ON TRACK. WE RECOMMEND THAT U.S. SHIP VISIT TO ROMANIA BE SCHEDULED AFTER THE MIRCEA VISIT TO THE U.S., AFTER MID-JULY 1976, AND THAT U.S. NAVY PROPOSE THE DATES THROUGH USDAO.

B. DAO WILL MAKE STRONG RECOMMENDATION THROUGH U.S. AIR FORCE CHANNELS FOR INVITATION TO CHIEF ROMAF TO VISIT AFTER JULY 1, 1976. AMBASSADOR THOROUGHLY ENDORSES IDEA (FOR FALL).

C. WE ALSO REQUEST A FOLLOW-UP WITH GENERAL WEYAND REGARDING ROMANIAN PARTICIPATION IN, OR OBSERVATION OF, SELECTED U.S. ARMY TRAINING COURSES AS OUTLINED IN BUCHAREST 5014 AND WOULD APPRECIATE OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT ON PROGRAM WHICH IN OUR VIEW COULD MAKE MODEST BEGINNING IN FALL OF '76.
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